

Cronin
John

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE ☒
Cronin, John F., S. S. (Rev.)
X JC 62
X

May 25, 1959

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Reverend John F. Cronin, S. S.
Assistant Director
National Catholic Welfare Conference
1312 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.
Washington 5, D. C.

Dear Father Cronin:

Thank you for your reply to my recent letter.

On my first opportunity, I intend to take the liberty to phone you at the office in hopes that you and I may have lunch someday at your convenience.

Please give my regards to Father Higgins.

Very truly yours,

Herold J. Gibbons
Executive Assistant to
the General President

HJG/js

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL ACTION



NATIONAL CATHOLIC WELFARE CONFERENCE
1312 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON 5, D. C.
CABLE ADDRESS: ENNSEE TELEPHONE: REPUBLIC 7-3553

May 15, 1959

Mr. Harold J. Gibbons
Executive Assistant to
the General President
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
25 Louisiana Avenue, Northwest
Washington 1, D. C.

Dear Harold:

I am sorry to have delayed replying to your letter of April 23. I have been out of the office quite a bit and have fallen behind in my correspondence.

I am not sure that the quotation in the Sun is correct, since I did not speak from a manuscript. I do know, however, that I was criticizing the Teamsters severely for paper locals and sweetheart contracts.

I must say, however, that I have been disappointed in Mr. Hoffa during his term in office. I had hoped that he would use his great ability and power to clean out the corrupt elements in the union. Mr. Hoffa has achieved a great deal in his life and deserves much credit for reaching the stage that he has attained. My deeply felt hope was that he would not be satisfied with obtaining power, but would rather leave his mark in history as a great labor leader who had helped restore integrity to one of the most powerful unions in our country. Frankly, I have not seen any evidence of such a development. It is still not too late.

Returning to my Baltimore talk, I am quite sure that Mr. Hoffa would not be cheered by business for cleaning out the boys that can be bought. He would only have the satisfaction of knowing that he has done a real service to his members and to his country at a time when we need every possible element of moral strength.

With every good wish, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Reverend John F. Cronin, S. S.
Assistant Director

JFC:mol

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE

Cronin, John J., S.S. (Rev.)
X JC 621
X

April 28, 1959

Mr. Clifford Kohne, Sec. - Treas.
Teamsters Joint Council No. 62
6000 Erdman Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Brother Kohne:

Attached is a letter to Father Cronin, which I felt called upon to send him.

I agree with you that it is not for Jimmy to answer, but my writing the letter serves the same purpose. I will let you know if I hear from him.

Fraternaly yours,

H. J. Gibbons
Executive Assistant to the
General President

HJG/yh
Enc.

April 23, 1959

Rev. John F. Cronin, S.S.
Assistant Director
NATIONAL CATHOLIC WELFARE CONFERENCE
1312 Massachusetts Avenue N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Father Cronin:

A clipping in the Baltimore Sun for April 16 quotes you, and I hope incorrectly, as saying that "Hoffa can be bought."

Despite months and even years of endeavor by Hoffa's political and economic adversaries to destroy his reputation with such charges, never has any evidence been submitted to support such a charge. If the quotation ascribed to you is correct, Father Cronin, I feel it is most unfortunate that you should lend your considerable stature in the labor field to perpetuating this false and unprovable allegation.

Quite to the contrary, I am sure you will agree that Hoffa's enemies on one hand accuse him of being an economic menace due to the quality and conditions of contracts which he negotiates, and on the other hand, show their desperation and dishonesty by accusing him in the next breath of selling out his people. I know you did not go that far in your presentation, but I can't help wondering why you repeated part of these false charges without any personal knowledge of evidence that they are true. As a matter of fact the whole weight of the evidence is that they are not true.

I would be happy to discuss these matters more at length with you some time if you so desire.

Sincerely yours,

Harold J. Gibbons
Executive Assistant to
the General President

JM
HJG:gv

From the Desk of
HAROLD J. GIBBONS

4/9/59
Date

Jake:

Prepare an answer to the attached
by Father Cronin.

8000 BROADMAN AVENUE

EASTERN 7-3700

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EXECUTIVE OFFICES

TEAMSTERS JOINT COUNCIL No. 62

AFFILIATED WITH THE
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS



April 7, 1959

Mr. James R. Hoffa, General President
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
25 Louisiana Avenue, N. W.
Washington 1, D. C.

Dear Sir and Brother:

Enclosed find clipping from the Baltimore Sun of
April 6, which I thought might be interesting to you.

If the quotes are correct, Father Cronin sure must
have reversed his opinions of some years ago. I did not think
it worthwhile to write directly to Father Cronin concerning
this when it seems to me that his attitude, in some respect,
was out-of-order for a Man of the Cloth.

Faternally yours,

TEAMSTERS JOINT COUNCIL NO. 62

Clifford Kohne
Clifford Kohne,
Secretary-Treasurer

Encl.
CK/eb

PURCHASE ONLY PRODUCTS MADE AND DELIVERED BY UNION LABOR

PRIEST RAPS OVERSIGHT OF LABOR UNIONS

Father Cronin Assails
Attitude On Infla-
tionary Spiral

A Catholic priest long active in American labor affairs yesterday criticized unions for "overlooking the importance of the current inflationary spiral."

Noting that the union attitude is supported publicly by "good economists in the labor movement," the Rev. John F. Cronin, S.S., said "it would be interesting to know what these economists are saying privately."

Raps Management

At the same time, Father Cronin rapped management representatives for their involvement in "a lack of basic, fundamental honesty, and just as money goes to thought," which he said has the whole nation in its grip.

"There is no question but that a sizable portion of the American community would take (James) Hoffa (the teamsters' boss) in preference to (Walter) Reuther (United Automobile Workers' president) . . . because it knows Hoffa can be hanged," the priest declared.

An assistant director of the National Catholic Welfare Conference and formerly a professor at St. Mary's Seminary who was active in labor organizing in Baltimore, Father Cronin was one of eight speakers who led discussion sessions at the forty-fifth annual Holy Name Society convention at the Lord Baltimore Hotel.

1,500 Laymen Attend

Nearly 1,500 laymen attended the conference of Holy Name groups in the Archdiocese of Baltimore, which began with a mass at 12:15 P.M. at the Cathedral.

It concluded with a dinner at 6:30 P.M. at which the Most Rev. Michael W. Doyle, coadjutor Bishop of Wilmington, was principal speaker.

Reflected during an afternoon session an Archbishop president of the Holy Name Society Union was Edmund H. Dowdery, Jr.

Vice presidents are Harry Zerhusen, Jr., Paul J. Neve, John E. Myers and Francis L. Warner. S. Abundis Wiseman is secretary and Joseph M. Lally is treasurer.

The eight discussion meetings covered subjects considered of

get into each other's hands," he said.

"It's a terrible thing to have this hardening."

The speaker offered some specific advice to union spokesmen.

"If you're getting a good wage already, the best test as to whether or you should try for more is whether the pay raise will cause a rise in prices."

There is nothing new about that," he added. "It is the formula the old AFL used for years."

"Would that price,"

Father Cronin had words of praise for some labor leaders and criticism for others. "I, for one, can't see anybody else of Walter Reuther's stature in sight," he said.

"If I were in the auto workers' union, I'd think twice about replacing Walter Reuther. On the other hand, if I were a steel worker, I might think differently about David McDonald."

The priest said he is "afraid" that Mr. McDonald is "willing to use the machinery of the union to stay in power."

Stating that "labor unions, political parties, the church or anything else gets corrupt when the members . . . are willing to sit back and let George do it," Father Cronin declared:

"It's up to the steelworkers to make sure at this stage the union doesn't slip out of their fingers."

The speaker, noting that "in the modern world the centers of power and centers of money have changed," urged that the unions which can afford it "some have money and some have not" consider endowing hospitals, schools and other institutions of the community.

"California looked in another day for money from rich individuals," but now they must look to groups."

Other speakers at the Holy Name sessions were the Very Rev. Vincent J. Beatty, S.J., president of Loyola College discussing the "modern scientific movement"; the Rev. Donald Neuhis, C. P., business manager of The Star, who spoke on the Catholic press; the Rev. Thomas J. Margage, director of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, discussing his work; and Brother Gabriel Cullen, F.S.C., president of Calvert Hall College, who discussed Catholic youth.

The Rev. Thomas M. Brew, S.J., of Manresa, discussed laymen's retreats; the Rev. Joseph M. Connolly, Newman Club chaplain at

Morgan State College, spoke on racial justice and the Rev. Abeymas J. Burgreif, C.S.P., director of the Catholic Information Center, had as his subject "the communist movement."

major importance to Catholic laymen.

Father Cronin told his audience that "as Christians" they "must reject the Marxist idea of class hatred" and that "the belief that every employer is the enemy of the worker is un-Christian."

He said, while the Nineteenth Century and the Twentieth Century "up until about 1914" were times of labor bitterness, it is "not very common today—it is taken more in unions than it meant."

The overriding problem for both labor and management since World War II is "the failure to